

## **Riparian Buffer Request For Qualifications (RFQ)** **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What California Environmental Protection Act (CEQA) analysis is anticipated?**

If the Grantee is a public agency, the Grantee is responsible for complying with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). For this project, a Notice of Exemption is anticipated. If the selected Grantee is a non-profit organization, the State Water Board will be the lead agency for CEQA. The Grantee is responsible for providing information the State Water Board needs to comply with CEQA.

### **Who is responsible for landowner access?**

The Grantee is responsible for all landowner access agreements. Permits do not need to be obtained before signing the agreement, however, we do encourage applicants to talk with landowners in their planning process and indicate their progress on this in their application, as it will be considered in the overall picture of the project as part of the "readiness to proceed."

### **What is a Project Assessment and Evaluation Plan (PAEP) and how does it relate to the project?**

A Project Assessment and Evaluation Plan (PAEP) is a document that will help you determine if the project is heading toward success and includes a project summary, a list of your goals and desired outcomes, and your project performance measurement tables. For more information on PAEP development, go to [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/grants\\_loans/paep/index.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/paep/index.shtml).

### **Is there flexibility on who serves on the Technical Advisory Committee?**

Yes, the only mandatory TAC member is Eric Berntsen of the State Water Resources Control Board (Water Board). However, we highly encourage applicants to replace those currently listed in the RFQ with their own experts. The Board cannot directly pay for TAC members so if payment is necessary it must come from the Grantee's budget.

### **Section 2.3.3 of the Request for Qualifications lists four functions and values that must be addressed by the buffer sizing tool. Are there other functions and values that can be considered?**

The applicant may suggest other functions and values in addition to those listed in Section 2.3.3. , but the original 4 functions and values can not be eliminated from the project.

**Section 4 of the Request for Qualifications lists a detailed outline for outreach and technology transfer; including conducting up to five workshops and targeting at least five local government staff to attend each workshop. How much flexibility does the Water Board offer on this outline?**

We are flexible. The applicant can propose an alternative means of outreach and technology transfer, so long as the outreach accomplishes the initial intent of the activities. This original intent included targeting people in local planning positions (that are making the on-the-ground land-use decisions) to establish an initial base of users from which the tool may be promoted and benefits may occur.